(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) An IMF Staff team is currently in India for Article IV Consultations, which are held on a regular basis with member-countries, as well as for discussion on possibilities of a further utilisation of IMF resources.

*[Translation]*

## COOPERATIVE COTTON YARN MILLS IN MADHYA PRADESH

1358. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cooperative cotton yarn mills in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether these mills are able to meet the requirements of handloom and powerloom industry;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up new cotton yarn mill in cooperative sector; and

(d) if so, the number of new mills likely to be set up during the Eighth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Two Mills.

(b) Apart from these two mills, there are 1030 mills engaged in spinning activity in the country which are producing hank yarn and con yarn. Therefore requirement is being met of powerloom sector as well as of handloom sector through the production of all these mills put together.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal for setting up any new cotton yarn mill in the cooperative sector during the eighth five year plan. Now for such Mills licenses are not required as per new Industrial Policy.

*[English]*

## RECONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY NO. 43 NEAR SALUR

1359. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the river bridge near Salur on National Highway No. 43 between Koraput and Visakhapatnam has been washed away by floods;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to reconstruct the bridge early to avoid inconvenience to the public;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir. This damaged bridge is located on the Unsuitable Link of NH 43 passing through Salur Town.

(b) to (d) As the collapsed bridge is situated on an Unsuitable NH Link, the State Government is responsible for its reconstruction.

## CONTRACTS WITH FOREIGN COMPANIES

1360. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to honour the international contracts signed with foreign companies who have invested in India; and

(b) if not, under what circumstances the contracts will be altered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) Agreements for foreign collaboration, including foreign investment, are between Indian companies and the foreign companies investing in India. These agreements are governed by Indian Laws. Proposals for alteration are also considered on merits subject to the prevailing laws/ guidelines.

## PRICE OF NATURAL RUBBER

1361. SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a decline in the price of natural rubber;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure reasonable price to rubber cultivators; and

(d) how the Government ensure that the support price declared by them is obtained by the cultivators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) There has been no decline in the price of Natural Rubber. A Buffer Stocking Scheme is being operated with a view to maintaining the natural rubber prices within a range which is remunerative to the rubber growers and fair to the user industry. A Bench Mark Price is fixed from time to time for natural rubber with an upper and a lower ceiling. The Buffer Stocking Scheme also provides for procurement of natural rubber from the domestic market when the price tends to go below a reasonable level.

[*Translation*]

## COURT CASES AGAINST DTC EMPLOYEES

1362. SHRI KALKA DASS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 613 on 15 March, 1990 and state :

(a) whether the cases filed against the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) employees and the leaders of their Union in connection with March, 1988 strike are still pending for decision in the court;

(b) if so, the number of persons who are still facing such cases;

(c) whether any steps are being taken by the Government to withdraw these cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Out of 43 cases registered in connection with DTC strike in March, 1988, 8 cases have been decided. 35 cases involving 311 persons are still pending.

(c) and (d). Delhi Administration have informed that they have recommended to Director of Prosecution for withdrawal of 29 cases. 4 cases involving offences of serious nature have not been recommended for withdrawal. The remaining 2 cases will be considered in the next meeting of the Screening Committee of Delhi Administration.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

[*English*]

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR AROOR-ARUKUTTY BRIDGE

1363. SHRI T. J. ANJALOSE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have given any financial assistance from Central Road Fund for Aroor-Arukutty bridge in Aleppey District, Kerala;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the construction of the bridge has since started; and

(d) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken for starting the construction of the bridge at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 265.00 lakhs was approved for the construction of Aroor-Arukutty bridge from Central Road Fund in April, 1989.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) As this bridge falls on a State Road, its construction is responsibility of the State Govt. They have informed that pre-qualification of contractors is presently under scrutiny.

## MAINTENANCE OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND IMPROVEMENT OF SANITATION PROGRAMMES BY CANTONMENT BOARDS

1364. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :